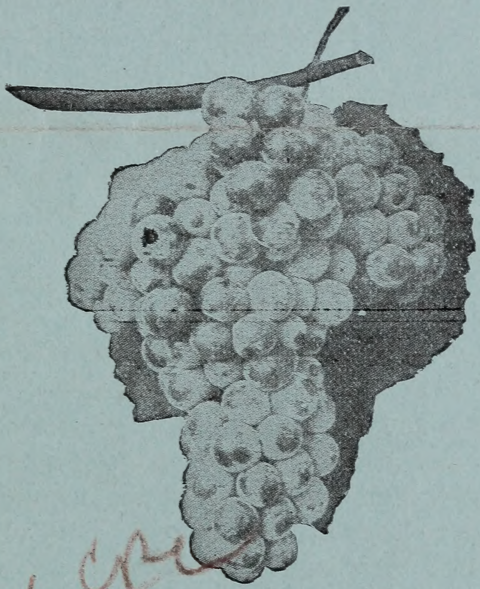
HARDY GRAPES FOR THE NORTH-WEST

THAT DO NOT NEED WINTER PROTECTION.

Origin of a quartette of Hardy Grapes

Valuable
and
interesting
for
Horticulturists



and
Planters
in
the
Northwest

"Beta" "Monitor" "Dakota" "Suelter"

— DESCRIBED BY —

Wm. Pfaender jr. (Pioneer Nursery) New Ulm, Minn.

With a history of their origin, by the originator,

MR. LOUIS SUELTER, (deceased) OF CARVER, MINN.,

Who attained for the Northwest in Grape-Growing, what Mr P. M. Gideon accomplished by producing the Wealthy apple in apple growing. :: :: ::

I have planted and have had fruit from them for a number of years, and found them perfectly hardy without any protection whatever, and bearing fruit annually. :: :: :: :: ::

Grapes produce more fruit for the space they occupy, than any other fruit producing plant.

December 1911

These grapes and their originator were not generally known and for that reason I term, what I ascertained regarding both,

"THE DISCOVERY."

Having planted and grown grapes for a number of years, I was constantly looking for hardy varieties that required no winter protection. After a long search I finally located Mr. Jacob Suelter, the son of the originator of the Beta, Monitor, Dakota, and Suelter grapes, who called my attention to the article written by his father. (see next page.) Mr. Jacob Suelter stated to me that in later years his father considered the Dakota the best of the four grapes named, and I purchased the entire stock of the Dakotas. I found the Dakota the sweetest of the four and bearing as well as the others. Going to Carver I procured stock from the original Suelter home where they are planted separately but not known by name. I planted each variety in a check row. Knowing the Dakota and Beta, having taken notes for several years and comparing them with the Beta and the Dakota I already had from reliable sources, and the Suelter being fully described by Professor T. V. Munson, of Texas, in his book, "Foundation of American Grape Culture," I was finally enabled to identify all four of them. I can say without fear of contradiction that my plot of these hardy grapes is the only one where each is known by name. The fact that Prof. C. B. Camp, of Nebraska, and Prof. T. V. Munson, of Texas, secured these grapes for the purpose of originating new varieties proves that they are valuable.

They are all black and make fine jelly, a superior red wine, and unfermented grape juice. For a table grape a good friend says, they are "Plenty good," and I agree with him; but for the latter purpose I prefer the Dakota. The berries are nearly as large as the Concord. They always ripen before the earliest frost and mature their wood perfectly.

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Dakota & Suelter $1.00 each, 3 for $2.00, 5 for $3.00, one or two year plants.
Beta & Monitor 50 cents each, 3 for $1.00, 7 for $2.00, one or two year plants.

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Although these grapes are perfectly hardy, it is well to cover them with a mound of earth, the first winter after planting. If they winter kill after that I agree to replace, or refund amount paid for them.

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To procure and identify these grapes I was assisted by an article in the Western Fruit Grower, of St. Joseph, Mo., of March, 1906, written by Prof. C. B. Camp, of Nebraska, also by Prof. T. V. Munson, of Denison, Texas, and his book, "Foundations of American Grape Culture," and Messrs. Jacob Suelter and T. Kemkes.

(I recommend Prof. Munson's book to every grape grower.)

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Directions for making grape jelly, a very fine red wine, or unfermented grape juice will be given on application.

Address, WM. PFAENDER, JR., New Ulm, Minn.

The Viticulture of the Future in the Northern Part of North America.

Through experience one gains knowledge and often a lucky and practicable idea which, if carried out with patience, skill and energy, will sometimes bring about the most valuable results. In this manner I have, through hybridization, produced several new varieties of grapes that promise to revolutionize grape culture by virtue of their hardiness. These hybrids will thrive as far north as the wild grapes, vitis cordifolia and vitis reparia grow. They will equally well endure the great cold of our northern winters without protection of any kind. I have had them in my garden now for about twelve years and they have never sustained the least damage from cold. Even the terminal buds will bring forth shoots, as well as the buds more remote from the tips of the vines.

For many years I had raised seedlings of our wild grapes with hope of obtaining vines that would bear larger bunches with larger and sweeter berries, but I had achieved no results except from one discovery. Among the seedlings, I found one which bloomed much earlier and whose fruit showed color much earlier, generally on the 25th of July, while all other wild grapes were from a week to 14 days behind in these respects. These early coloring grapes had but little acidity, tasted quite sweet and were fit to eat by the first of August, but they showed no improvement in size of bunch and berry. The thought struck me that if I were to fertilize the blossoms of this grape with the pollen of the Concord (vitis Labrusca) I might produce an earlier and hardier grape than the somewhat tender Concord, which hereabouts always has a sour pulp and requires protection in winter.

I believe that it was in 1870 when I undertook the hybridization and raised about fifteen seedlings and planted them in my garden where, in course of time, they matured. In 1881 they bloomed for the first time. I then discovered that the majority of these seedlings were affected with mildew, for that year, according to my recollection, mildew was more prevalent than in any other of a period of twenty years. There were but five seedlings that showed no trace of it. These I kept while the affected ones were destroyed. In the years 1881, 1882 and 1883 these hybrids bore fruit without any trace of rot. To show how early these hybrids are I will give dates of flowering and ripening of fruit, as follows:

1881. No. 1 begins to blossom May 26, shows color July 31.
1881. No. 2 begins to blossom May 27, shows color Aug. 4.
1881. No. 3 begins to blossom May 30, shows color Aug 8.
1881. Delaware begins to blossom June 8, shows color Aug. 15.
1882. No. 1 begins to blossom June 18, shows color Aug. 20.
1882. No. 2 begins to blossom June 14, shows color Aug. 24.
1882. No. 3 begins to blossom June 15, shows color Aug. 29.
1882. Delaware begins to blossom June 26, shows color Sept. 4.
1883. No. 1 begins to blossom June 24, shows color Aug. 22.
1883. No. 2 begins to blossom June 24, shows color Aug. 28.
1883. No. 3 begins to blossom June 21. shows color Sept. 2.
1883. No. 4 first flowering June 23, shows color Aug. 17.
1883. Delaware begins flowering June 27, shows color Sept. 4.

In 1881 spring began at the usual time, in 1882 about three weeks later, and in 1883 still six days later than in the previous year.

By the medium large bunch and berry and the leaves which these hybrids produce I can see that the hybridization actually took place. The berries are usually from one-half to five-eighths of an inch in diameter. When perfectly ripe they are nearly black and their pulp is not sour like those of the Labrusca. On September 10th, 1883, at the time of the first severe frost, the wood of these hybrids had ripened completely, as well as the fruit, which had a fine sweet flavor, similar to that of a good ripe Delaware grape. On the other hand, the wood and fruit of the Delaware were still unripe and the latter was destroyed by this frost. The foregoing shows that the summer of 1883 was one of the shortest of our latitude, and yet the vines and fruit of these hybrids matured perfectly. There is certainly nowhere a vine that will equal these in valuable qualities and so well adapted to a northern climate. According to newspaper report grapes were frozen in many localities, even in Illinois, on September 10th, 1883. Had my hybrids been planted in those places a full crop would have been harvested before this frost occurred.

The northern limit for grape culture has been established by using a grape of the Labrusca type as a test, while in reality it is coextensive with that of the wild grape, as my hybrids will prove. By planting these the heretofore assumed limit will be pushed considerably northward and a wide strip from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains will be added to area considered safe for grape growing. How far southward it will be advantageous to plant my hybrids experiment must determine; very likely to the southern limit of winter protection for grapes. Wherever the wild grape is a native there grape-growing may succeed, and it depends upon the skill and ingenuity of man to produce a grape adapted to the local requirements. This can only be done through hybridization.

I will propagate as many as possible of these hybrids, and I have now on hand a few hundred for amateurs who may desire them. So that they may be known by name I have named them, "Suelter's Minnesota Hybrids," No. 1 Beta, No. 2 Monitor, No. 3 Dakota, and No. 4 Suelter.

LOUIS SUELTER,
Carver, Carver County, Minn.

I hereby certify that the above article, written by Mr. Louis Suelter in the German language, was published in the Minneapolis "Freie Presse," a German newspaper, on October 18th, 1884. That the above translation by William Pfaender Jr., is a good and correct translation and gives the facts as therein stated.

Dated at Minneapolis, Nov. 27th, 1911.

ADOLPH DUEVEL,
Proprietor of "Freie Presse Herold,"
Successor to "Minneapolis Freie Presse."

P. S.—Any other information desired will gladly be given by Wm. Pfaender, Jr. (Pioneer Nursery), New Ulm, Minn.

These grapes may be planted to run upon porches or arbors, or trained on a trellis, same as other grapes.

All grapes will bear more fruit if properly pruned, and they should be pruned after the second year, bearing in mind, that fruit is borne next season, on this year's wood, that grew on last year's wood. When pruning, cut back this year's growth to stubs of three buds each. Preserve one or two shoots 3 to 4 feet long on which to grow fruiting wood for next year.